



***EPA's Draft Strategy to Reduce Lead
Exposures and Disparities in U.S.
Communities***

Listening session presentation

Lead Strategy Focus

“Focus on eliminating the disparities in blood lead levels by taking targeted actions to prevent childhood exposures that could lead to lifelong health effects and barriers to social and economic well-being.”

What is the *Strategy to Reduce Lead Exposures and Disparities in U.S. Communities*?

- ▶ The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is seeking public comment on a draft Strategy to Reduce Lead Exposures and Disparities in U.S. Communities (Lead Strategy)
- ▶ The draft Lead Strategy lays out Agency and government-wide approaches to strengthen public health protections, address legacy lead contamination for communities with the greatest exposures and promote environmental justice

Why is the Strategy to Reduce Lead Exposures and Disparities in U.S. Communities important?

- ▶ Ongoing exposures to lead in the environment present a health risk to too many people nationwide
- ▶ Very low levels of lead in children's blood have been linked to adverse effects on intellect, concentration, and academic achievement
- ▶ The U.S. has made substantial progress in reducing lead exposure, but significant disparities remain along racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic lines
- ▶ EPA developed the Lead Strategy to focus on eliminating these disparities by taking targeted actions to prevent childhood exposures that could lead to lifelong health effects and barriers to social and economic well-being

What are the goals of the draft Lead Strategy?

The draft Lead Strategy identifies four goals and commits to take various actions to address key problems that contribute to lead exposure in communities. The goals are:

- ▶ Reduce Community Exposures to Lead Sources,
- ▶ Identify Lead-Exposed Communities and Improve Their Health Outcomes,
- ▶ Communicate More Effectively with Stakeholders, and
- ▶ Support and Conduct Critical Research to Inform Efforts to Reduce Lead Exposures and Related Health Risks

Goal to Reduce Community Exposures to Lead Sources has five objectives:

- ▶ Objective A: Reduce Exposure in Homes and Child-Occupied Facilities with Lead-Based Paint Hazards
- ▶ Objective B: Reduce Exposure to Lead from Drinking Water
- ▶ Objective C: Reduce Exposure to Lead in Soils
- ▶ Objective D: Reduce Exposure to Lead Associated with Emissions to Ambient Air
- ▶ Objective E: Reduce Lead Exposure Through Enforcement and Compliance Assistance

Three approaches used in the draft Lead Strategy

The EPA has identified three approaches that will guide our actions and facilitate greater collaboration within the Agency and with federal partners:

- ▶ Reduce lead exposures locally with a focus on communities with disparities and promote environmental justice,
- ▶ Reduce lead exposures nationally through protective standards, analytical tools, and outreach, and
- ▶ Reduce lead exposures with a “whole of EPA” and “whole of government” approach

Reduce Lead Exposure Locally

- ▶ The EPA will work with our partners to identify communities where lead exposure and blood lead levels are known or reasonably suspected to be highest
- ▶ Determine the dominant sources and cumulative exposure pathways
- ▶ Use this knowledge and evidence-based best practices to focus the Agency's actions under all applicable authorities to reduce risk

Reduce Lead Exposure Nationally

- ▶ The EPA will prevent and reduce lead exposures by developing and implementing national standards, policy, and guidance; enforcing regulations and statutory requirements, including:
 - ▶ Dust-Lead Hazard Standards & Dust-Lead Clearance Levels
 - ▶ Lead-Based Paint Definition
 - ▶ Lead and Copper Rule Revisions
 - ▶ Soil Lead Policy for Contaminated Sites
 - ▶ Soil Lead Hazard Standards
 - ▶ National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Lead
 - ▶ National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants
 - ▶ New Source Performance Standards for Lead
- ▶ Apply analytical tools and conduct research to improve the scientific foundations to reduce and mitigate lead exposure
- ▶ Solicit stakeholder input to inform Agency decisions

Whole of EPA/Whole of Government

- ▶ The EPA will target opportunities to collaborate across EPA programs:
 - ▶ Work with federal partners and other governmental stakeholders, including states, tribes, cities, and counties, as well as non-governmental organizations and industry stakeholders
- ▶ Focus the full range of resources to reduce lead exposures from all sources in the most impacted communities across the country
- ▶ Use evidence-based strategies for communication and outreach designed to reduce these exposures

Why is EPA asking for public comments and what kind of information is helpful?

- ▶ Public comments will help the Agency develop a final Lead Strategy that reflects the input and priorities of the people who it is intended to benefit
- ▶ EPA is asking for people to describe in their own words what actions will help address lead in their communities
- ▶ It will be most helpful if people can provide specific suggestions on how the draft Lead Strategy can be improved



How to Submit Written Comments




Comment Period and Public Docket

- ▶ The comment period for the draft Strategy to Reduce Lead Exposures and Disparities in U.S. Communities closes on March 16th, 2022
- ▶ In addition to tonight's verbal comments, **comments can be submitted to the draft Lead Strategy docket** through the Federal eRulemaking portal at **regulations.gov**
- ▶ A **docket** is a collection of documents used by the Agency to develop and support its decisions, and includes public comments
- ▶ EPA has opened a docket for members of the public to submit input to the Agency in writing
 - ▶ Visit <https://www.regulations.gov/>
 - ▶ Search for Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OLEM-2021-0762
 - ▶ We'll go through how to navigate regulations.gov in a few slides
- ▶ For more information on submitting information to EPA dockets, visit <https://www.epa.gov/dockets/commenting-epa-dockets>

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Strategy to Reduce Lead Exposures and Disparities in U.S. Communities

Agency Environmental Protection Agency | Posted Oct 27, 2021

Comment

ID EPA-HQ-OLEM-2021-0762-0001

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